

Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-10

SAM-01 OPIC-06 EB-07 AF-06 SIL-01 LAB-04 /104 W

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R 171630Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5629

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 11306

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT,PGOV,PO,BE

SUBJECT: PUBLIC APPEARANCES IN BRUSSELS BY MARIO SOARES

1. PORTUGUESE SOCIALIST LEADER SOARES MADE TWO PUBLIC APPEARANCES IN BRUSSELS DEC 17. FIRST WAS AT MINISTRY OF SOCIAL SECURITY TO RECEIVE 7TH JOSEPH LEMAIRE PRIZE, WHICH AWARDED BY BELGIAN SOCIALIST PARTY AND NAMED AFTER PAST BSP PRESIDENT. (AMONG PREVIOUS RECIPIENTS WERE ALBERT SCHWEITZER, P.H. SPAAK, GHENT UNIVERSITY SURGICAL TEAM WHICH CARRIED OUT FIRST LUNG GRAFT IN BELGIUM AND A. VAN ACKER WHO RESPONSIBLE FOR BELGIAN SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM). SECOND APPEARANCE FOR PUBLIC LECTURE SPONSORED BY GRANDES CONFERENCES CATHOLIQUES, HIGHLY RESPECTED GROUP WHICH PRESENTS MONTHLY PROGRAM OF SPEAKERS ON POLITICAL OR CULTURAL TOPICS (MITTERAND WAS RECENT SPEAKER).

2. IN HIS PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS, SOARES MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

(A) PORTUGUESE REVOLUTION HAD ITS ROOTS IN PORTUGAL'S COLONIAL WARS. FIRST SUCCESS OF REVOLUTION WAS DECOLONIZATION DESPITE UNHAPPY TURN OF EVENTS IN ANGOLA.

(B) MAIN ECONOMIC PROBLEM FOR PORTUGAL IS TO FIND WAY TO RESTRUCTURE PORTUGUESE ECONOMY WHICH WAS BASED ON TRADE WITH

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COLONIES AND HAD LEFT PORTUGUESE THE POOREST PEOPLE IN

EUROPE. "PORTUGAL'S ONLY EXPORT IS PEOPLE, 3 MILLION OUT OF A POPULATION OF 9 MILLION." IN RESTRUCTURING PORTUGUESE ECONOMY, CARE MUST BE TAKEN NOT TO EXACERBATE PRESENT ECONOMIC CRISIS BY INTRODUCING UNREALISTIC MEASURES, SUCH AS MASSIVE WAGES INCREASES, WHICH MIGHT CAUSE BANKRUPTCIES AND THUS LOSS OF JOBS. SOARES NOTED PCP HAD PRESSED FOR SUCH IN ORDER TO ADD TO ECONOMIC CRISIS.

(C) ITALIAN AND SPANISH CPS HAVE ACCEPTED DEMOCRATIC GAME RULES AND ABANDONED DOCTRINAIRE MARXIST CONCEPT OF CP BEING REPRESENTATIVE OF MASSES REGARDLESS OF THE VOTE THEY MIGHT GARNER. PCP HAS NOT YET LEARNED THIS WHICH IS CAUSE OF PSP-PCP DISPUTE.

(D) LIBERTY IS NOT A BOURGEOIS CONCEPT. RATHER IT IS FUNDAMENTAL TO PORTUGUESE SOCIALISM - SOCIALISM WHICH DOES NOT RESPECT HUMAN RIGHTS AND LIBERTY IS ONLY A CARICATURE". IT IS ESSENTIAL TO HAVE THE PEOPLE EXPRESS THEIR WILL BY THE BALLOT BOX TO SAY THEY ARE NOT SUFFICIENTLY MATURE TO VOTE, AS DOES THE PCP, IS TO REPEAT THE ARGUMENTS OF SALAZAR AND CAETANO.

(E) SOARES IS OPTIMISTIC FOR FUTURE OF PORTUGAL AND OF PSP. AFTER FAILURE OF ABORTIVE LEFTIST COUP, PCP ABANDONED LEFT DEVIATIONISTS TO THEIR FATE AND ABANDONED THE PCP- LEFTIST ALLIANCE WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED FROM OUTSET AS "AGAINST NATURE".

(F) SOARES NOTED THAT SINCE REVOLUTION, NOT A SINGLE HOUSE, HOSPITAL, FACTORY OR SCHOOL HAD BEEN BUILT. NOW THAT THE REVOLUTION HAD SHAKEN DOWN IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO ADDRESS SUCH URGENT NEEDS.

3. SMALL GROUPS OF DEMONSTRATORS TRIED TO DISRUPT SOARES LECTURE WITH NOISE, TRACTS FROM BALCONY, BANNER ("POWER TO THE PEOPLE"), EGGS (3) AND HECKLING. GROUPS WERE NOT COORDINATED AND APPEARED TO REPRESENT DIFFERENT COMMUNIST AND LEFT-COMMUNIST VIEWPOINTS AS WELL AS THOSE OF INDIVIDUAL FOREIGN AND BELGIAN RADICALS WHO HAD RECENTLY RETURNED FROM PORTUGAL. SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS WERE ADEQUATE AND SOARES' OWN SKILLFUL RESPONSES AND CONTROL OF POWERFUL LOUDSPEAKER PREVENTED DEMONSTRATORS FROM BEING MORE THAN A LIVELY NUISANCE. SOARES HIMSELF ASKED THAT THEY NOT BE EXPELLED FROM HALL AS IT WAS JUST POSSIBLE THEY MIGHT LEARN SOMETHING FROM HIS LECTURE. AT CONCLUSION SOARES RECEIVED STANDING UNCLASSIFIED

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OVATION FROM LARGELY CONSERVATIVE CATHOLIC AUDIENCE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISITS, POLITICAL LEADERS, SPEECHES, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BRUSSE11306
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750439-0216
From: BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751233/aaaabcpf.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 AUG 2003 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <13 JAN 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PUBLIC APPEARANCES IN BRUSSELS BY MARIO SOARES
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, PO, BE, (SOARES, MARIO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006